

Southern Pacific Company

IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO

5

FT HUACHUCA , ARIZ, MAR 4 1948

HON SIDNEY .P. OSBORN

GOVERNOR , STATE OF ARIZ, STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX ARIZ.

DEAR GOVERNOR OSBORN;

WHILE IT HAS BEEN ALMOST THREE YEARS SINCE I LAST SAW YOU, WHILE YOU WERE HAVING LUNCH IN WICKENBURG ENROUTE FROM PRESCOTT TO PHOENIX, AM SURE YOU WILL RECALL ME AS THE FATHER OF THE BOY YOU SO GRACIOUSLY WROTE TO OVERSEAS, WHILE HE WAS IN SERVICE, I REFER TO MY SON WALLACE, WHO NEXT TO HIS GRANDFATHER, WHO IS AN ASSOCIATE OF YOURS IN THE HIGHWAY DEPT, HE HOLDS YOU IN THE HIGHEST ESTEEM.

I AM WRITING THIS LETTER GOVERNOR IN CONNECTION WITH THE PRESENT SPECULATIVE RUMORS I HAVE HEARD AS TO THE DISPOSITION OF FORT HUACHUCA, WHICH HAS BEEN DECLARED SURPLUS, AFTER HAVING BEEN FOR YEARS ONE OF THE OLDEST FORTS IN THIS WESTERN COUNTRY AS WELL AS THE OLDEST CONTINUOUS FORT IN ARIZONA.

WHILE THERE HAS BEEN NUMEROUS AND VARIED OPINIONS AS TO WHAT WILL ULTIMATELY BE DONE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S VAST HOLDINGS HERE EITHER FROM A FEDERAL STANDPOINT, OR STATE, AND SINCE THEY HAVE ALL TOUCHED VARIOUS SMALLER PROJECTS WITHIN OUR STATE, I HAVE GIVEN NO LITTLE THOUGHT TO THE POSSIBILITIES HERE AS TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LARGE NAVAJO VOCATIONAL AND AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE PRESENT CLAMOR FOR SOME ASSISTANCE TO THE NAVAJO PEOPLES, AND THE FACT THAT PRESIDENT TRUMAN HAS ASKED CONGRESS FOR A TEN YEAR REHABILITATION PROGRAM AS WELL AS \$2,000,000 FOR IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY RELIEF.

USFH-00002065

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2 SUB; FT HUACHUCA

IT IS POINTED OUT GOVERNOR, THAT TO ADEQUATELY PROVIDE ACTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT TO MAKE THE NAVAJO PEOPLE PARTIALLY SELF SUSTAINING, WILL REQUIRE AN ADDITION TO THEIR PRESENT HOLDINGS OF RESERVATION LAND, APPROXIMATELY 150,000 ACRES, FURTHER, WHILE THERE ARE ROUGHLY 25,000 NAVAJO CHILDREN OF SCHOOL AGE, AT THE PRESENT TIME, THE GOVERNMENT ONLY MAINTAINS SCHOOL FACILITIES FOR ABOUT 6000 NAVAJOS, FURTHER, THE NAVAJO LANDS BEINGS AS THEY ARE, UNSUITABLE FOR MOST AGRICULTURAL, CERTAINLY NOT FOR FOR GRAZING, THERE IS ONLY ABOUT 23,00 ACRES OF IT SUITABLE, OR THAT CAN BE CONSIDERED A POSSIBLE MEANS OF SUPPORT TO THE NAVAJOS WORKING THAT AMOUNT.

IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE PLIGHT OF THE NAVAJO PEOPLE IS NOT ONLY A STATE ISSUE, BUT FEDERAL AS WELL, AND ALSO THE FACT THAT FORT HUACHUCA IS FEDERAL, DONT YOU THINK WE COULD DO MUCH IN THE WAY OF ALEVIATING THE SUFFERING OF OUR NAVAJO PEOPLE IN THIS STATE BY TURNING FORT HUACHUCA INTO A LARGE SCALE NAVAJO RESERVATION WHICH AT THE SAME TIME, PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT FOR AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF OF STATE VETERANS IN MAKING UP THE TEACHERS, OFFICE WORKS AND OTHER NECESSARY PERSONNEL, WHICH THIS WOULD ENTAIL.

PERHAPS SIR, BEING PART INDIAN MYSELF, I AM JUST A LITTLE OVER ENTHUSIASTIC OVER THE POTENTIAL POSSIBILITIES HERE, BUT FELT IT WOULD DO NO HARM TO WRITE YOU IN THIS, THAT I CALL A PRESSING NEED AT HOME, WHILE WE ARE CONSIDERING THE NEEDS OF MILLIONS IN EUROPE, AND ALSO AT LEAST KEEPING THE FAITH OF A PEOPLE WITH WHOM KIT CARSON MADE A TREATY IN 1863.

WITH KINDEST PERSONAL REGARDS I BEG TO REMAIN.
Wm A. Burns 49th St.